



## Missouri's Vision for Special Education Services

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We, the people of Missouri, believe that diversity enhances our culture; therefore, we commit our resources and efforts to accept, educate, and support all children and youth. All children and youth, being of diverse backgrounds and abilities, will have access to all learning activities with accommodations and supports to enable them to succeed. All children and youth are actively engaged in creating their own futures and are prepared for life as independent, informed, and empowered citizens; and, are embraced as vital, valued, and contributing members of their communities.

**Therefore**, we need inclusive communities and schools that:

- recognize that all children and youth can learn;
- commit to providing equitable opportunities for all children and youth;
- build on the individual strengths and abilities of each child and youth;
- collaborate for the benefit of all children and youth; and,
- recognize and involve families as full partners.

## Mission Statement

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The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education is a team of dedicated individuals working for the continuous improvement of education and services for all citizens. We believe that we can make a positive difference in the quality of life for all Missourians by providing exceptional service to students, educators, schools and citizens.

**We provide leadership and promote excellence. We**

- Champion high-quality public education
- Advocate equity for every learner
- Develop school leaders and other educational team members
- Establish standards that demand excellence and build a solid foundation for lifelong learning, workplace skills and citizenship
- Evaluate program and policy effectiveness
- Share best practices
- Carry out programs with the least administrative burden and cost
- Assist persons with disabilities by providing individualized support and services
- Create a caring workplace that fosters teamwork and personal and professional growth

**We promise to greatly exceed customers' expectations. We**

- Listen to those we serve in order to improve our operations and adapt to changing needs
- Forge partnerships to improve our services
- Value each employee's contribution to achieving this mission